



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Baton Rouge area to be redesignated as attainment for the pollutant Ozone

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, EPA announced the proposed approval of Louisiana’s request to redesignate the Baton Rouge area as being in attainment with the 1997 8-hour standard for the pollutant ozone. This area, which consists of East and West Baton Rouge parishes, Iberville, Livingston and Ascension parishes, has air quality data thru 2011 that shows it as being in compliance since Dec. 31, 2008. Achieving this goal means that the Baton Rouge area, which had been classified as severe, has significantly reduced ground level ozone. It is the culmination of the hard work and collaboration by the state, industry and the citizens of Louisiana resulting in cleaner air and a better, healthier environment.

Louisiana and DEQ have also demonstrated that with all control measures now in effect, the area can maintain this status for the next ten years. This announcement is good news for the environment and economic health of the state.

“Many people felt like this day would never come,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “However, with the help from industry, the public, environmental groups and more, we have reached this incredible air quality milestone. Louisiana’s environment is the best it’s been since the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Our goal is to continue to use technology, creative measures and our regulatory authority to protect human health and the environment.”

Redesignation is a hard won achievement and DEQ continues to be committed to improving the air quality and environment for the state. For more information on current air quality, go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2505/Default.aspx>

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